

Chapter 3

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

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3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents information on the affected environment and environmental consequences. The environmental consequences are analyzed for both the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The following resources are analyzed in this chapter:

- Water Supply and Delta Water Management,
- Delta Tidal Hydraulics,
- Water Quality,
- Fish,
- Wildlife and Vegetation,
- Air Quality,
- Noise,
- Power Production and Energy,
- Cultural Resources,
- Environmental Justice,
- Indian Trust Assets, and
- Growth Inducement.

Additionally, a CEQA Environmental Checklist developed by the OPR is included in Appendix A. The CEQA Environmental Checklists provides an analysis of environmental impacts on additional resources.

For the purposes of CEQA, the effects of implementing the Proposed Action are compared to Existing Condition. For the purposes of NEPA, the effects of the Proposed Action are compared to No Action. For most issue areas, Existing Condition and No Action are identical, so only one comparison is made. However, for the four resource areas dependent on hydrological modeling results

(Water Supply and Delta Water Management, Delta Tidal Hydraulics, Water Quality, and Fish), the CEQA effects of the Proposed Action are analyzed by comparing a simulation using a 2001 level of development (LOD) without the Proposed Action (i.e., Existing Condition) and with the Proposed Action. The NEPA comparison is made by comparing a simulation using a 2020 LOD without the Proposed Action (i.e., No Action) and with the Proposed Action.